

**CONFIDENTIAL**

25X1

82 8412406 SCR

PAGE 001  
TOR: 150457Z APR 82

NC 8412406

RR RUEAIIB  
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
 UTS8535  
 RR RUEHC  
 DE RUEHCR #0928/1 1042115  
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 R 141951Z APR 82  
 FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7973  
 INFO RUESKN/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 1664  
 RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 203  
 RUESPR/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 1129  
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1374  
 RUCLFOA/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL  
 RUEABND/DEA MIAMI FL  
 RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L ) NASSAU 0928

State Dept. review completed

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/14/88 (ANTIPPAS, ANDREW F). OR-M  
 TAGS: SNAR, PINS, BF  
 SUBJ: NARCOTICS INTERDICTION, LAUNCHING OF OPERATION BAT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. A THREE MONTH JOINT NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AS FOLLOW UP TO EARLIER TIBURON AND ANTILLES OPERATIONS. THIS PROGRAM, CODE NAMED BAT, INVOLVES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE BAHAMAS THE USE OF U.S. AIRLIFT AND COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES TO MOVE LOCAL POLICE AND DEFENSE FORCE PERSONNEL TO LIKELY TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY THROUGHOUT THE ARCHIPELAGO WHERE CACHES OF NARCOTICS MIGHT BE FOUND. THOUGH NOT ALL EQUIPMENT IS IN PLACE OR LOGISTICS WORKED OUT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE BAHAMAS POLICE HAVE COOPERATED VERY WELL AS HAVE THE TCI AUTHORITIES. WE EXPECT A PROFITABLE HUNTING SEASON.  
 END SUMMARY.
3. THE ALL-OUT NARCOTICS OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS USED THE BAHAMAS, TURKS, CAICOS ARCHIPELAGO AS A TRANSIT ROUTE FOR THE ENTRY INTO THE SOUTH EASTERN UNITED STATES OF NARCOTICS PRODUCED IN JAMAICA AND COLOMBIA. IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPING THEIR SMUGGLING NETWORK ADVANTAGE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY TRAFFICKERS OF THE GREAT EXPANSE OF WATER, SOME 600 ISLANDS, MINIMAL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FORCES AVAILABLE PLUS THE MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD TRADITION OF SMUGGLING TO THE US. ADDED TO THIS IS THE ASTONISHING AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE TO CRIMINALS WHO ARE ABLE TO BUY ENTIRE ISLANDS, AIRCRAFT, BOATS, SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS PLUS THE SERVICES OF WHOEVER CAN HELP THEM, THE TRAFFICKING NETWORK, HEAVILY INFLUENCED IF NOT DOMINATED BY COLOMBIAN ELEMENTS SINCE 1978, HAS ALSO MADE POSSIBLE WHOLESAL SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL ALIENS AND THE VIRTUAL DISCOURAGEMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANT US YACHT TRADE IN THE WESTERN BAHAMAS. PREVIOUS INTERDICTION EFFORTS HAVE BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE IN COMPREHENDING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE BAHAMAS

**CONFIDENTIAL****CHRONO**

# CONFIDENTIAL

82 8412406 SCR

PAGE 002  
TOR: 150457Z APR 82

NC 8412406

-----  
IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE.

4. OFFICIALLY, THE BAHAMAS HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT TRAFFICKING IS A US PROBLEM, GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE US MARKET AND THAT THE US SHOULD THEREFORE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE UNDERMANNED POLICE FORCE AND FLEDGLING DEFENSE FORCE. THE GCOB HAS ALSO ASSERTED THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE DEFENSE FORCE, TRAFFICKERS NOW TEND TO AVOID THE ISLANDS. HOWEVER, QUITE THE REVERSE IS TRUE.

5. COOPERATION AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL HAS BEEN QUITE GOOD SINCE TRAFFICKING BEGAN IN EARNEST. CLEARANCE FOR THE ENTRY OF COAST GUARD OR CUSTOMS AND DEA AIRCRAFT IS ACCORDED QUICKLY. HOWEVER, THE SURVEILLANCE OF A 100,000 SQUARE MILES OF ARCHIPELAGO STRETCHING FROM FLORIDA TO HISPANIOLA WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO FREELY ROAM THE WATERS AND AIRSPACE OF THE BAHAMAS HAS MADE INTERDICTION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

6. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO EARLIER CUSTOMS, DEA OPERATIONS CODE NAMED TIBURON AND ANTILLES I AND II, DEA, WITH ITS NEWLY ADDED RESOURCES PROPOSED A FOLLOW-ON JOINT OPERATION, CODE NAMED BAT, OFFERING US AIRCRAFT TO MOVE BAHAMIAN OR TURKS-CAICOS LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL TO SUSPECT AREAS THROUGHOUT THE ARCHIPELAGO IN THE FIRST SUCH JOINT INTERDICTION PROGRAM.

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

7. THE US SIDE HAD DEDICATED ONE FIXED WING AND ONE HELO TO THE BAHAMAS PLUS COMMUNICATIONS GEAR FOR HALF A DOZEN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN THE BAHAMAS. SIMILAR AIRCRAFT ARE DEDICATED TO THE TCI. CURRENTLY, DEA HAS DEPLOYED FOUR ADDITIONAL AGENTS INCLUDING TWO PILOTS TO THE BAHAMAS TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY'S TWO ATTACHES. THERE ARE SIX AGENTS INCLUDING AIR CREW ON GRAND TURK OPERATING FROM THE US TRACKING STATION. HOST COUNTRIES HAVE EACH DEDICATED A STRIKE FORCE OF TEN POLICE. THOUGH FLYING IS RESTRICTED TO DAY LIGHT HOURS, SOME RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AND PLANS MADE FOR OVERNIGHT AMBUSH SITES WITH THE US AIRCRAFT TO DROP SQUADS OFF AND PICK THEM UP THE NEXT DAY.

8. THOUGH THE OPERATION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE APRIL 4, DRUG SEIZURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FROM HEAVY CURRENT TRAFFICKER ACTIVITY IN THE BIMINI CHAIN AND THE BERRY ISLANDS DESPITE THE LACK OF PROMISED RADIOS AND LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF US PILOTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO HUEY (HU-1) HELICOPTERS WILL BE PROVIDED TO AUGMENT THE FOUR SEATER BELL RANGER HELO AND THE PIPER AZTEC NOW IN SERVICE HERE. ADDITIONAL LIFT IS OBVIOUSLY NEEDED PLUS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THAT ALLOWS ALL OF THE PLAYERS TO TALK TO EACH OTHER. WHEN A NET IS ESTABLISHED THE BAHAMAS DEFENSE FORCE COMMANDER HAS PROMISED THE CHARGE' A DEDICATED REACTION FORCE OF MARINES PLUS WATCH STANDERS FOR THE IMPROMPTU COMMAND POST SET UP AT THE POLICE COLLEGE IN THE CENTER OF NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND.

9. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE OPERATION, FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH POLICE ABOARD TO BIMINI, THE BERRY ISLANDS IN THE NORTHWEST OF THE BAHAMAS TO THE RAGGED AND ELEUTHERA ISLANDS IN THE SOUTHEAST. SEE NASSAU 910 FOR SUMMARY REPORT NUMBER ONE FOR THE OPERATION. IN ONE INSTANCE FIVE COLOMBIANS WERE ARRESTED WITH A C-46 AIRCRAFT. NO CONTRABAND WAS FOUND. SEVERAL SORTIES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE BIMINI CHAIN WHERE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11 AIRCRAFT UP TO THE SIZE OF DC-3 HAVE BEEN DROPPING BALES OF MARIJUANA TO NUMEROUS WAITING FORMULA "CIGARETTE" SPEED BOATS. AS A RESULT OF THE PRESENCE OF THE US EHLO THE CIGARETTES SCATTERED TO NEARBY CAYS. HOWEVER, THE COAST GUARD AND CUSTOMS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ABLE TO CATCH FIVE CIGARETTES FOR A TOTAL CAPTURE OF FIVE US TRAFFICKERS PLUS 1800 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA. IN A SEPARATE SORTIE, THE DEA HELO PILOT RECONNO

# CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

82 8412406

SCR

PAGE 003

NC 8412406

TOR: 150457Z APR 82

A HOUSE ON THE ONE MILE LONG ISLAND OF CISTERN CAY IN THE BERRY ISLANDS DESCRIBED AS FESTOONED WITH ELECTRONIC ANTENNAS. LARGE 500 GALLON FUEL TANKS PLUS FOUR FLAT BED TRUCKS.

10. RECONNAISSANCE ALSO REVEALED A 60 FOOT MOTOR VESSEL WITH EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIC GEAR ABOARD POSITIONED OFF THE BERRY ISLANDS IN THE NORTHWEST PROVIDENCE CHANNEL WHERE MONITORING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR THE TRAFFICKERS.

1. COMMENT: WE ARE MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE REACTION OF THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL BAHAMIAN POLICE WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE THE MANDATE AND MEANS TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. COOPERATION FROM THE TOP DOWN HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. BUREAUCRATIC GLITCHES ON THE BAHAMIAN SIDE HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP RAPIDLY. THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE. CHARGE OFFERED TO BRIEF THE MINISTER ON PROGRESS TO DATE AND HE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY FROM EITHER SIDE AND NONE IS DESIRED FOR THE MOMENT. IF THE MINIMAL AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED AND MANPOWER ARE KEPT HERE FOR THE DURATION OF THE OPERATION, NOT ONLY WILL THE TRAFFICKERS BE HURT BUT A SIGNIFICANT STANDARD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE BAHAMAS WILL BE SET WHICH CAN ONLY ENHANCE OUR RELATIONS. END COMMENT.

ANTIPPAS

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**